

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 172471  
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DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:AFHOLLOWAY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 172471

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT LAGOS 8325 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LOME HAVANA USUN NY  
6 JUL 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 8325

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PEPR, XA, CU, NI

SUBJ: REPORTED MESSAGE FROM OBASANJO TO CASTRO

REF: A) LAGOS 8092, B) LOME 2128

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS ON CUBAN FOREIGN  
MINISTER'S RECENT VISIT TO LAGOS (SEPTTEL), MEA AMERICAS DEPARTMENT  
DIRECTOR AMBASSADOR MUSA SAID THAT HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO  
TOLD CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER THAT NIGERIA APPRECIATES THE  
STABILIZING ROLE CUBA HAS PERFORMED IN ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA  
BUT HOPES CUBAN TROOPS WILL LEAVE AS SOON AS THEIR MISSION IS  
FINISHED.

2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT OBASANJO GAVE  
THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MUCH THE SAME MESSAGE HE HAD  
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EARLIER SENT TO CASTRO IN WRITTEN FORM (REFTELS). MUSA'S  
ACCOUNT OF THE DISCUSSION DIFFERS SIGNIFICANTLY, HOWEVER,  
FROM THE TOGOLESE ACCOUNT OF THE WRITTEN COMMUNICATION  
BY THE INCLUSION OF THE QUALIFYING CONCEPT, "AS SOON  
AS THEIR MISSION IS FINISHED." WE ARE INCLINED TO  
CREDIT MUSA'S VERSION MORE THAN THAT OF THE TOGOLESE BECAUSE  
THE LATTER VERSION HAS AN UNFRIENDLY AND PEREMPTORY RING TO IT

WHICH WE THINK OBASANJO WOULD NOT WISH TO CONVEY IN ADDRESSING CASTRO. WE WILL NEVERTHELESS CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN AS PRECISE AN ACCOUNT OF THE WRITTEN MESSAGE AS POSSIBLE.

3. IN CONVERSATION LAST NIGHT WITH AMBASSADOR EASUM, CUBAN AMBASSADOR MOZORRA WAS EVASIVE IN RESPONSE TO EASUM'S PROBING ON NIGERIAN ATTITUDES CONCERNING CUBAN TROOPS. AMBASSADOR MOZORRA DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON THE ETHNIC ROOTS OF THE SHABA PROBLEM, MAINTAINING THAT A POLITICAL RATHER THAN A MILITARY SOLUTION PROVIDED THE ONLY LONG-TERM ASSURANCE OF PEACE IN THE SHABA REGION. HE NEITHER DENIED NOR ADMITTED A CUBAN ROLE WITH REGARD TO THE RECENT MILITARY ACTIONS THERE. WHEN EASUM SUGGESTED THAT IT MIGHT BE SIMILARLY APPROPRIATE TO SEEK POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEM OF ANGOLAN UNITY, MOZORRA CITED SAVIMBI'S STUBBORNNESS AS A BLOCK TO SUCH A SOLUTION. EASUM SUGGESTED THAT NETO WAS PERHAPS SIMILARLY OBDURATE AND THAT BOTH LEADERS WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE WILLING TO COMPROMISE THAN HAD YET BEEN THE CASE. MOZORRA HAS PREVIOUSLY SERVED IN ZAIRE AND SEEMS UNUSUALLY WILLING TO ENGAGE IN NON-IDEOLOGICAL DISCUSSIONS OF SUCH ISSUES. WE WILL ENDEAVOR TO DRAW HIM OUT FURTHER WHEN APPROPRIATE OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF.  
EASUM

UNQUOTE VANCE  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE172471  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** BJSHARP  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 78 LAGOS 8092, 78 LOME 2128  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED MESSAGE FROM OBASANJO TO CASTRO  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PEPR, XA, CU, NI, (CASTRO RUZ, FIDEL), (OBASANJO, OLUSEGUN)  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014